

II. Claim for Priority

A Claim for Priority was filed on January 25, 1999 in parent Application No. 09/236,539 with a certified copy of the priority document for this application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy in the next Office Action.

III. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-22 of the parent application, now U.S. Patent No. 6,633,399 to Fukazawa et al. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e) and 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,219,150 to Eguchi; and rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,140,647 to Ise et al. (Ise). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

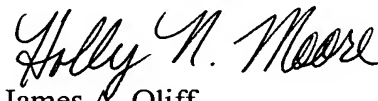
The present application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/236,539 (hereinafter "parent application"). The parent application and the present application claim priority of Japanese Patent Application No. Hei 10-019711 (JP '711), filed January 30, 1998, which is prior to the May 13, 1998 filing date of Eguchi. Therefore, Applicant's invention antedates the filing date of Eguchi. See MPEP §706.2(b). An accurate English-language translation of JP '711 is attached to perfect the claim for priority. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Moore
Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNH/jam

Attachments:

Copy of Form PTO-1449 (filed August 20, 2003)
Copy of Form PTO-1449 (filed October 5, 2005)
Terminal Disclaimer
English-language Translation of Hei 10-019711

Date: January 3, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 102445.01		APPLICATION NO. New Rule 53(b) Continuation Application of Application No. 09/236,539	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Koshi FUKAZAWA			
				FILING DATE August 20, 2003		GROUP 2622	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
		5,754,778	05-1998	Shoujima			
		5,521,719	05-1996	Yamada			
		5,166,932	11-1992	Hoff et al.			
		5,363,090	11-1994	Cannon et al.			
		6,219,150	04-2001	Eguchi			
		6,101,548	08-2000	Okada			
		5,983,170	11-1999	Goodman			
		6,253,326	06-2001	Lincke et al.			
		6,112,323	08-2000	Meizlik et al.			
		5,805,804	09-1998	Laursen et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
		EP 1 026 858 A2	08-2000	Europe			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: August 20, 2003